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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1941

No. 814

THE STATE TAX COMMISSION OF UTAH,
Petitioner,

vs.

MALCOLM P. ALDRICH and MARY S. HARKNESS, Administrators with the will annexed of the Estate of Edward S. Harkness, Deceased.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF UTAH AND BRIEF IN SUPPORT THEREOF

J. LAMBERT GIBSON,
GARFIELD O. ANDERSON,
Counsel for Petitioner.

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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No.....

THE STATE TAX COMMISSION OF UTAH,
Petitioner,

vs.

MALCOLM P. ALDRICH and MARY S. HARKNESS, Administrators with the will annexed of the Estate of Edward S. Harkness, Deceased.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

TO THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES:

The petition of the State Tax Commission of Utah respectfully shows to this Honorable Court:

I.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF MATTER INVOLVED

The petitioner, the State Tax Commission of the State of Utah, is a body politic, created under and by virtue of the constitution and laws of the State of Utah, and is charged with the duty, among other things, of enforcing the provisions of Chapter 12, Title 80, Revised Statutes of Utah, 1933, and of collecting the estate taxes due thereunder (R. 1-2).

Respondents (plaintiffs in this action originally, and hereinafter referred to as plaintiffs) are the duly appointed, qualified and acting administrators with the will annexed of the estate of Edward S. Harkness, deceased (R. 1).

Edward S. Harkness died January 29, 1940, and at the time of his death was a resident of and domiciled in the State of New York (R. 1). At date of death Edward S. Harkness was the owner of 10,000 shares of the common stock and 400 shares of the preferred stock of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (R. 2-3). The certificates representing these shares of stock were in the possession of the decedent in the State of New York and the same certificates are now physically located in the State of New York in the possession of the plaintiffs as executors of the estate of said decedent (R. 3). The shares of stock were recorded on the books of the Union Pacific Railroad Company in the name of Edward S. Harkness at the date of his death (R. 3). Other than the ownership of the stock in question, the transfer of which the State Tax Commission of Utah claims as subject to tax under Chapter 12, Title 80, Revised Statutes of Utah, 1933, the decedent owned no property within the jurisdiction of the State of Utah.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company is a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Utah (R. 2).

At the date of Mr. Harkness' death the laws of the State of New York allowed as a credit against the estate tax imposed by the State of New York the amount of any constitutionally valid estate or inheritance tax paid to any other state within three years after the decedent's death (R. 4).

The State Tax Commission of Utah claims and asserts that the transfer at death of said shares of stock of the Union Pacific Railroad Company from said decedent is subject to tax under Chapter 12, Title 80, Revised Statutes of Utah, 1933, and has demanded payment of said tax

as a condition precedent to the transfer of said shares of stock from the decedent's name to such beneficiaries as may be entitled thereto under the terms of the decedent's will.

On October 4, 1940, plaintiffs filed an action in the Third Judicial District Court of the State of Utah, in and for the County of Salt Lake, asking for a declaratory judgment to the effect that the transfer of such shares of stock was not subject to the Utah estate tax and requesting an injunction against the State Tax Commission restraining and prohibiting the Commission from asserting any tax liability upon such transfer (R. 1-8). The allegations of plaintiffs' complaint include averments to the effect that the imposition of such a transfer tax by the State of Utah would violate the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. This was the earliest opportunity at which a federal question could be raised (R. 5, 6, 7). The cause was submitted to the trial court and on January 22, 1941, the trial court rendered its memorandum decision in favor of plaintiffs and against petitioner (R. 15-16). On March 24, 1941, declaratory judgment and decree, as prayed, was entered by the trial court (R. 17-19). One of the grounds of said decision of the trial court was that the imposition of the tax contended for by petitioners would violate the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. Appeal was duly taken to the Supreme Court of the State of Utah (R. 19) and on September 17, 1941, the Supreme Court of the State of Utah rendered its decision affirming that of the trial court (R. 20-26). (Utah, 116 Pac. (2d) 923.) Judgment of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah in accord with said decision was entered September 17, 1941 (R. 26).

The decision and judgment of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah were based solely upon the principle that the proposed imposition of the tax under the facts of the case at bar would violate the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

Petition for rehearing was duly and timely made to the Supreme Court of the State of Utah on the 14th day of October, 1941, and was denied by that court on the 24th day of October, 1941 (R. 26).

This petition is for a review of the decision and judgment of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah. Said judgment of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah is a final judgment of the highest court of the State of Utah in which a decision could be had.

II.

JURISDICTION

1. The date of the judgment to be reviewed was September 17, 1941 (R. 26). The date of the order denying petition for rehearing was October 24, 1941 (R. 26).

2. The Supreme Court of the State of Utah is the highest court of law and equity in the State of Utah and the judgment or decree sought to be reviewed and reversed is a final judgment or decree of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah.

3. The Supreme Court of the State of Utah has decided a federal question of substance in a way not in accord with applicable decisions of this Court and has held the application of a statute of the State of Utah invalid on the grounds of its being repugnant to the Constitution of the United States of America. (Judicial Code, Section 237, as amended; 28 U.S.C.A., Section 344.)

4. The statute of the State of Utah involved is found in the volume entitled Revised Statutes of Utah, 1933, at page 920, Sections 80-12-2 and 80-12-3, and provides as follows:

Section 80-12-2:

> "A tax equal to the sum of the following percentages of the market value of the net estate shall be imposed upon the transfer of the net estate of every decedent, whether a resident or non-resident of this state: * * *."

Section 80-12-3:

"The value of the gross estate of a decedent shall be determined by including the value at the time of his death of all property, real or personal, within the jurisdiction of this state, and any interest therein, whether tangible or intangible, which shall pass to any person, in trust or otherwise, by testamentary disposition or by law of inheritance or succession of this or any other state or country, or by deed, grant, bargain, sale or gift made in contemplation of the death of the grantor, vendor or donor, or intended to take effect in possession or enjoyment at or after his death."

5. The entire record is before this Honorable Court on this petition for writ of certiorari which is made within the time limit prescribed by statute and the rules of this Court.

III.

QUESTION PRESENTED

The question presented in this action is whether the State of Utah may, without violation of the Constitution of the United States of America, levy and collect its estate tax upon the transfer at death of shares of stock in domestic Utah corporations, which stock was, at the time of death, owned by a decedent nonresident of and not domiciled in the State of Utah.

IV.

REASONS RELIED ON FOR ALLOWANCE OF WRIT

1. Petitioner respectfully presents that the Supreme Court of the State of Utah has erroneously decided a federal question of substance in a way not in accord with applicable decisions of this Court, in that the Supreme Court of the State of Utah has held in a final judgment that the State of Utah is barred by the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America from assessing and collecting its estate tax upon the transfer at death of shares of stock in domestic

Utah corporations owned by nonresident decedents at the time of death. Recent decisions of this Honorable Court have demonstrated that a tax under such circumstances is not violative of any provision of the Constitution of the United States of America. *Curry* v. *McCanless*, (1939) 307 U. S. 357, 83 L. ed. 1339, 59 S. Ct. 900; *Graves* v. *Elliott*, (1939) 307 U. S. 383, 83 L. ed. 1356, 59 S. Ct. 913; and other decisions treated in petitioner's brief in support of this petition for writ of certiorari.

2. The Supreme Court of the State of Utah has, by the decision herein referred to, held that a statute of the State of Utah is invalid in its application to the facts of the case at bar upon the ground that the statute was repugnant to the Constitution of the United States of America, and in so holding has misconstrued the Constitution of the United States of America and the applicable decisions of this Court.

3. The question of whether the state of incorporation may tax the transfer at death of shares of stock of domestic corporations owned by nonresident decedents at date of death is one of general importance and concern to the several states and to taxpayers. The question should be decided by this Court.

WHEREFORE, your petitioner respectfully prays that a writ of certiorari be issued out of and under the seal of this Honorable Court directed to the Supreme Court of the State of Utah, commanding the said Supreme Court of the State of Utah to certify and to send to this Court on the day certain to be therein named a full and complete transcript of the record and all proceedings in the case entitled and numbered on the docket of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah: "Malcolm P. Aldrich and Mary S. Harkness, Administrators with the will annexed of the Estate of Edward S. Harkness, Deceased, Plaintiffs and Respondents, vs. State Tax Commission of the State of Utah, Defendant and Appellant, No. 6358", to the end that said case may be reviewed and determined by this

Court; as provided by law, that the judgment of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah in said cause be reversed by this Honorable Court, and that your petitioner have such other and further relief as to this Honorable Court may seem just and proper; and your petitioner will ever pray.

STATE TAX COMMISSION OF UTAH

J. LAMBERT GIBSON,
GARFIELD O. ANDERSON,
Counsel for Petitioner.

BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

OPINION OF COURTS BELOW

The trial court rendered its decision on January 22, 1941 (R. 15-16) but the opinion is unreported. The opinion of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah (R. 20-26) is reported at ——Utah——, 116 Pac. (2d) 923.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The facts of the case are set forth in the petition herein (see pages 1-4).

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah herein sought to be reviewed was entered on September 17, 1941 (R. 26). Petition for rehearing was denied by the Supreme Court of the State of Utah on October 24, 1941 (R. 26). The judgment of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah was rendered in a cause in which the validity, under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, of Sections 80-12-2 and 80-12-3, Revised Statutes of Utah, 1933, was directly involved.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under Section 237 of the Judicial Code, as amended by the Act of February 13, 1925, c. 229, Sec. 1, 43 Stat. 937 (28 U.S.C.A., Sec. 344) and the Act of February 13, 1925, c. 229, Sec. 8, 43 Stat. 940 (28 U.S.C.A., Sec. 350).

STATEMENT OF ERRORS

1. The Supreme Court of the State of Utah erred in applying the principles established by this Court in applicable decisions to the facts in this cause.

2. The Supreme Court of the State of Utah erred in its application of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States to the facts in this cause.

3. The Supreme Court of the State of Utah erred in holding that the imposition of the Utah estate tax upon the transfer of shares of stock of domestic corporations of the State of Utah owned by nonresident decedents was in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

4. The Supreme Court of the State of Utah erred in not holding that Chapter 12, Title 80, Revised Statutes of Utah, 1933, as herein sought to be applied was valid.

ARGUMENT

I.

The Law Prior to First National Bank of Boston v. Maine

Chapter 12, Title 80, Revised Statutes of Utah, 1933,[1] commonly called the Utah Inheritance Tax Law, in reality imposes an estate tax upon the transfer of the net estate of a decedent. *State Tax Commission* v. *Backman,* (1936) 88 Utah 424, 55 Pac. (2d) 171.

The gross estate, from which, after allowance of certain deductions, the net estate is derived, includes "all property * * * within the jurisdiction of this state, and any interest therein, whether tangible or intangible, which shall pass to any person * * * by testamentary disposition or by law of inheritance or succession of this *or any other state or country* * * *". (Section 80-12-3, Revised Statutes of Utah, 1933.) The tax is placed upon "the transfer of the net estate of every decedent, *whether a resident or nonresident of this state.*" (Section 80-12-2, Revised Statutes of Utah, 1933.) (Italics ours.)

Prior to the decision of this Court in *First National Bank of Boston* v. *Maine,* (1932) 284 U. S. 312, 76 L. ed. 313, 52 S. Ct. 174, the State of Utah levied and collected its estate tax upon the transfer of stock in Utah corporations whether owned by resident or nonresident decedents. *Larson* v. *MacMiller,* (1920) 56 Utah 84, 189 Pac. 579; see also the decision of the Supreme Court of Utah in the instant case, 116 Pac. (2d) 923.

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[1] See Appendix A.

The statutory provisions under which such transfers were taxed by the State of Utah prior to the First National Bank case have remained unchanged to the present time so far as material to the question herein presented (see decision in instant case, 116 Pac. (2d) 923) and are intended to tax transfers such as those in the case at bar if such tax be not violative of the Constitution of the United States.

The position of the State of Utah in so taxing such transfers was in complete harmony with the unanimous decisions of all state courts of last resort which had ruled upon the question. *Greves* v. *Shaw*, (1899) 173 Mass. 205, 53 N. E. 372; *In re Bronson*, (1896) 150 N. Y. 1, 44 N. E. 707; see collection of cases from state courts in annotation at 42 *A. L. R.* 365, *et seq.* There is no decision from any court, under statutory provisions comparable to those of Utah, to the contrary prior to *First National Bank of Boston* v. *Maine, supra.*

Even this Court, prior to the First National Bank decision, had on many occasions recognized the right and power of the state of incorporation to tax the transfer of stock in domestic corporations whether owned by resident or nonresident decedents. *Maxwell* v. *Bugbee*, (1919) 250 U. S. 525, 63 L. ed. 1124, 40 S. Ct. 2; *Frick* v. *Pennsylvania*, (1925) 268 U. S. 473, 69 L. ed. 1058, 45 S. Ct. 603; *Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company* v. *Doughton*, (1926) 270 U. S. 69,70 L. ed. 475, 46 S. Ct. 256; see also *Blackstone* v. *Miller*, (1903) 188 U. S. 189, 47 L. ed. 439, 23 S. Ct. 277; *Baker* v. *Baker, Eccles & Company*, (1917) 242 U. S. 394, 61 L. ed. 386, 37 S. Ct. 152; *Corry* v. *Baltimore*, (1905) 196 U. S. 466, 49 L. ed. 556, 25 S. Ct. 297.

The cases of *Farmers Loan & Trust Company* v. *Minnesota*, (1930) 280 U. S. 204, 74 L. ed. 371, 50 S. Ct. 98; *Baldwin* v. *Missouri*, (1930) 281 U. S. 586, 74 L. ed. 1056, 50 S. Ct. 436; and *Beidler* v. *South Carolina Tax Commission*, (1930) 282 U. S. 1, 75 L. ed. 131, 51 S. Ct. 54, are not opposed to the position herein contended for by your petitioner. Those cases all involved evidences of *debts* —

bonds, notes and open accounts. There is a definite, real and substantial difference between stocks, on the one hand, and bonds, or other evidences of debt, on the other. *In re Bronson, supra;* annotation at 42 *A. L. R.* 355, *et seq.*, especially at 357. This distinction was recognized and carefully applied prior to *First National Bank of Boston* v. *Maine, supra.* Compare *Larson v. MacMiller, supra,* to *McLaughlin* v. *Cluff,* (1925) 66 Utah 245, 240 Pac. 161. The decision in the First National Bank case failed to apply this long recognized distinction.

II.

First National Bank of Boston v. Maine Should Be Reconsidered by this Court

For the reasons and upon the grounds and authorities set forth in Point I hereunder, as well as other bases to be hereinafter enumerated, it is submitted that the majority decision of this Court in *First National Bank of Boston* v. *Maine, supra,* should be reconsidered. That decision failed to apply recognized and established principles of law governing taxation by states and misinterpreted the extent of the prohibition contained in the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The economic or moral wisdom of a tax is properly a subject for legislative, not judicial, consideration. States should be free to tax and to devise methods and subjects of taxation without fear of judicial intervention, so long as such taxing methods and systems are not plainly in violation of the Constitution of the United States. *New York Fire Insurance Company* v. *State Board of Tax Appeals,* (1939) 307 U. S. 313, 83 L. ed. 1312, 59 S. Ct. 918; *Wisconsin* v. *J. C. Penney Company,* (1940) 311 U. S. 435, 85 L. ed. 222, 61 S. Ct. 246; *Commonwealth* v. *Stewart,* (1940) 338 Pa. 9, 12 Atl. (2d) 444, affirmed by Supreme Court of United States, 312 U. S. 649, 85 L. ed. 389, 61 S. Ct. 445. As recognized in both the majority and dissenting opinions in First National Bank of Boston v. Maine, many states,

prior to that opinion, had enacted reciprocal legislation to avoid multiple taxation of the transfer of shares of stock, as well as other intangibles. See also 53 *Harvard Law Review* 69-70. If First National Bank of Boston v. Maine is law, such legislative enactments become mere vain gestures. We submit that "legislative legislation" is the proper method to meet any objection there may be to such multiple taxation, not "judicial legislation" under the guise of interpreting the Fourteenth Amendment.

Even the majority opinion in the First National Bank case recognized a jurisdiction to tax existent in the state of incorporation. The dissent, of course, is based upon a recognition of such jurisdiction. The majority, however, recognizing also a jurisdiction to tax in the state of the domicil of the owner, felt compelled, by something read into the Fourteenth Amendment against multiple taxation, to decide between the jurisdiction of two states. Therein lies the error of which the dissent complained and to which we take exception.

After making its choice in favor of the state of domicil, the majority opinion then went on in an attempted justification of the choice by arguing that the power to impose death transfer taxes rested upon the power of the state to control the privilege of succession. This, again, was erroneous. *Knowlton* v. *Moore,* (1900) 178 U. S. 41, 44 L. ed. 969, 20 S. Ct. 747.

Regardless of the soundness of that decision, the sole principle upon which it was based has been repudiated by later decisions of this Court. That principle, simply stated, was that the Fourteenth Amendment prohibited more than one state from subjecting the transfer of an intangible to a death duty transfer tax. As stated by Mr. Justice Sutherland in the majority opinion at 284 U. S. 328:

> "We conclude that shares of stock, like the other intangibles, constitutionally can be subjected to a death transfer tax by one state only."

Without that basis, the decision necessarily falls, for, absent that basis, there is no necessity for choosing between two states, each having jurisdiction. That principle has been unequivocally repudiated by this Court in *Curry* v. *McCanless*, (1939) 307 U. S. 357, 83 L. ed. 1339, 59 S. Ct. 900, and *Graves* v. *Elliott*, (1939) 307 U. S. 383, 83 L. ed. 1356, 59 S. Ct. 913.

In *Curry* v. *McCanless, supra,* a resident of Tennessee transferred certain intangibles in trust to an Alabama trustee. At death, both Tennessee and Alabama claimed the right to subject those intangibles to their respective death transfer tax. Each contended for the right to tax to the exclusion of the other, apparently assuming that this Court would continue to apply the rule of First National Bank of Boston. This Court, however, held that *both* states could tax, upon the ground, necessarily, that the Fourteenth Amendment contained no prohibition against two states taxing the transfer at death of the same intangibles.

In *Graves* v. *Elliott, supra,* a New York decedent had retained a power of revocation in connection with a trust of intangibles held by a Colorado trustee. This Court again held that *both* Colorado and New York could tax the transfer at death of the intangibles.

Either the rule of *First National Bank* is law or the rule of *Curry* v. *McCanless* and *Graves* v. *Elliott* is law. Both rules cannot stand, since they are irrevocably irreconcilable. The rule of the latter cases correctly returns to the principle that the Fourteenth Amendment does not prohibit multiple taxation. *Blackstone* v. *Miller,* (1903) 188 U. S. 189, 47 L. ed. 439, 23 S. Ct. 277. The rule announced in the latter cases should prevail. See also *Commonwealth* v. *Stewart, supra; Pearson* v. *McGraw,* (1939) 308 U. S. 313, 84 L. ed. 293, 60 S. Ct. 211; to the same effect see *Van Dyke* v. *Wisconsin Tax Commission,* (1940) 311 U. S. 605, 85 L. ed. 46, 61 S. Ct. 5.

Under the rule of these later cases, the State of Utah, having jurisdiction and freed of the supposed shackles of

the Fourteenth Amendment, may proceed to levy its tax. That the State of Utah has jurisdiction, see cases cited under Point I; see also *Newark Fire Insurance Company* v. *State Board of Tax Appeals, supra; Wisconsin* v. *J. C. Penney Company, supra; Commonwealth* v. *Stewart, supra; Nelson* v. *Sears, Roebuck & Company,* (1941) 312 U. S. 359, 85 L. ed. 522, 61 S. Ct. 586; *Nelson* v. *Montgomery Ward & Company,* (1941) 312 U. S. 373, 85 L. ed. 529, 61 S. Ct. 593.

These later decisions are also in harmony with the concurring opinion of Justice Stone and the dissent of Justices Holmes and Brandeis in *Farmers Loan & Trust Company* v. *Minnesota, supra;* the dissent of Justice Holmes (in which Justices Brandeis and Stone concurred) in *Baldwin* v. *Missouri, supra,* and *Beidler* v. *South Carolina Tax Commission, supra;* the dissent of Justice Stone (joined by Justices Holmes and Brandeis) in *First National Bank of Boston* v. *Maine, supra.* Throughout these dissents runs the same principle that now again finds majority support in *Curry* v. *McCanless* and *Graves* v. *Elliott, supra,* —namely, that the Fourteenth Amendment contains no prohibition against multiple taxation. See also *Cooley* on Taxation, 4th Edition, Sections 223 and 224, also Section 143. A comparative reading of the dissents above noted and the controlling opinion in *Curry* v. *McCanless* demonstrates a remarkable similarity, almost identity, of thought, principle and law.

First National Bank of Boston v. *Maine* should, therefore, be reconsidered in the light of later controlling opinions of this Court.

III.

This Petition Presents a Question of General Importance which Should Be Decided by this Court

Since 1932, the states have considered themselves barred by the decision in *First National Bank of Boston* v. *Maine*

from attempting to levy a death transfer tax on stock of domestic corporations owned by nonresident decedents because of the rule of that case against multiple taxation. See 53 *Harvard Law Review* 68, 70. The more recent decisions of this Court hereinbefore cited have created doubts as to the present efficacy of the First National Bank of Boston rule. 53 *Harvard Law Review* 68, 71-72. As typical examples of the doubt now existent see *Prentice-Hall*, "Inheritance and Transfer Tax Service", Pennsylvania, paragraph 1012; Oregon, paragraph 1013; West Virginia, paragraph 1001; Arizona, paragraph 201; Utah, paragraph 1009; Vol. I, Reciprocity, paragraph 501. See also annotation at 123 *A. L. R.* 179, especially at pages 197, *et seq.*

In 53 *Harvard Law Review* at page 71 the following appears:

> "The chief importance of the 'trust situs' cases (Curry v. McCanless and Graves v. Elliott) is the possibility that they foreshadow decisions to the effect, among others, that the state in which a corporation is organized may tax the transfer at death of stock in that corporation owned by a nonresident." (Parenthetical insertion ours.)

Under the present state of the law, confusion exists as to the extent of the constitutional power of the states. Taxing authorities are necessarily faced with the problem of enforcing tax legislation as written. Legislative changes which might otherwise be contemplated are of doubtful necessity and efficacy. Orderly administration of revenue measures, protection of state revenues and sources of revenue, as well as the interests of many citizens in making decisions as to investments, all indicate the imperative importance of having the questions raised in this proceeding decided by this Honorable Court at the earliest possible moment.

CONCLUSION

Petitioner prays that this Honorable Court grant this petition for a writ of certiorari.

Respectfully submitted,

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Counsel for Petitioner.

APPENDIX A.

Chapter 12, Title 80, Revised Statutes of Utah, 1933, As Amended by Chapter 88, Laws 1935

Section 80-12-2:

A tax equal to the sum of the following percentages of the market value of the net estate shall be imposed upon the transfer of the net estate of every decedent, whether a resident or nonresident of this state:

Three per cent of the amount by which the net estate exceeds $10,000 and does not exceed $25,000;

Five per cent of the amount by which the net estate exceeds $25,000 and does not exceed $75,000;

Eight per cent of the amount by which the net estate exceeds $75,000 and does not exceed $125,000;

Ten per cent of the amount by which the net estate exceeds $125,000; *provided,* at the discretion of the tax commission, the taxpayer may choose to pay in kind on an estate or any portion thereof which is not liquid.

Section 80-12-3:

The value of the gross estate of a decedent shall be determined by including the value at the time of his death of all property, real or personal, within the jurisdiction of this state, and any interest therein, whether tangible or intangible, which shall pass to any person, in trust or otherwise, by testamentary disposition or by law of inheritance or succession of this or any other state or country, or by deed, grant, bargain, sale or gift made in contemplation of the death of the grantor, vendor or donor, or intended to take effect in possession or enjoyment at or after his death.

Section 80-12-9:

Where any property belonging to a foreign estate is subject to the payment of the tax herein provided for, such tax shall be assessed upon the market value of such property remaining after the payment of such debts and expenses as are chargeable to the property under the laws of this state, and, in the event that the executor of such foreign estate files with the

clerk of the court in this state having ancillary jurisdiction statements in writing exhibiting the true market value of the entire estate of the decedent, and the amount of indebtedness for which the decedent has been adjudged liable at the time of his death in other jurisdictions, which statements shall be in affidavit form and sworn to by such executor, there shall also be deducted such proportion of the said indebtedness of the decedent from the value of the property within this state as the value of the property within this state bears to the value of the entire estate; *provided*, that in all such cases where the property within this state consists of personal property only, the statements hereinbefore provided for shall also be filed with the state tax commission.

Section 80-12-34:

If an executor shall assign or transfer any corporate stock or obligations standing in the name of a decedent, or in trust for a decedent, liable to tax hereunder, the tax shall be paid to the state tax commission on or before the transfer thereof; otherwise, the corporation permitting its stock or obligations to be so transferred shall be liable to pay such tax, and it is the duty of the state tax commission to enforce the payment thereof.